

**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES**

**PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION**

**IN RE:** ) Docket No. 556  
) Order No. 52/2020  
**THE VIRGIN ISLANDS TELEPHONE CORPORATION’S** )  
**PETITION FOR RECERTIFICATION** )  
**OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND** )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, on Monday August 3, 2020, the Virgin Islands Telephone Corporation d/b/a Viya (hereinafter “VITELCO” or “Viya”<sup>1</sup>) filed a request with the Virgin Islands Public Services Commission (hereinafter, “PSC” or the “Commission”) for recertification of its Universal Service Fund (hereinafter, “USF”) eligibility pursuant to section 54.314 (a) of the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter “FCC”) rules; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2020, the Commission received a report and analysis from its technical consultants, Georgetown Consulting Group, Inc. (hereinafter “GCG”) recommending the approval of VITELCO’s USF recertification; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 22, 2020, the Commission met in regular session at its office on St. Thomas, USVI located at No. 1003 Estate Ross, Suite 4 and via its Zoom videoconference link; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission heard witness testimony from Viya and GCG, and

**WHEREAS**, upon review and deliberation the Commission voted to GRANT Viya’s request to recertify its USF eligibility pursuant to section 54.314 (a) of the FCC and ADOPT the Report and Recommendations of its Technical Consultants; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Commission finds and Orders that Viya’s request for USF recertification is GRANTED on the following findings terms and conditions:

1. Within one month following an award of Stage 2 funding, VITELCO shall file with the PSC its plans to use such funds to improve broadband service and the timeline of the intended system improvements. The information it provided to the FCC as part of its bid for Stage 2 support in compliance with Section 54.1505(d) will satisfy this requirement;

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<sup>1</sup> VITELCO is part of a group of companies collectively doing business as “Viya”.

2. For VITELCO's 2021 and future "Use" certification filings, VITELCO shall include information on how its past actions, as well as future equipment rollouts are, and will be, in compliance with FCC Stage 2 specifications;

3. VITELCO shall provide with the PSC a copy of its annual certifications to the FCC specifically to include those covered in Part 54 Sections 313(n), 316(a)(7) and 316(b)(7). These certifications cover use of the Stage 2 funds for prohibited purposes, review of disaster recovery plans, and progress toward coverage and technical requirements. These certifications should be filed with the PSC at the same time they are filed with the FCC.

*So Ordered.*

For the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Hughes", is written over a horizontal line.

David Hughes, Chair

Date: **September 30, 2020**

*Nunc Pro Tunc*